LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

1. The Cochin Public Health Bill.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move that the Cochin Public Health Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following. The Minister, the Advocate-General, Mrs. Francis, Dr. S. S. Rao, Mr. P. Govinda Menon, Mr. A. Eachara Menon, Mr. K. I. Velayudhan, Mr. Dhara Singh and Mr. P. Narayana Menon.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Motion put and carried.

2. THE COCHIN VILLAGE COURTS ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* I move for the introduction of the Cochin Village Courts Act (Amendment) Bill. Section 7 of the Cochin Village Courts Act, XII of 1118 provides that the term of the President, Senior Judge and Judges of the Village Court shall be three years. No power is vested in Government to extend the term of three years under any circumstances. Since all the Village Courts have not been constituted on a particular date, the term of the President, Senior Judge and Judges of the several courts will expire on different dates and fresh nominations will have to be made as from different dates. It is desirable that the term of all the Presidents and Judges expire simultaneously to enable Government to make fresh nominations for all the courts at one and the same time. Power is therefore proposed to be taken by Government to extend the term of three years when it appears to Government necessary to do so. Further there is no provision in the Act empowering Government to make rules for the suspension or cancellation of licenses issued to Agents in cases of misconduct. It is proposed to take specific power for this purpose. Hence the Bill.

There is a slight mistake in the printing. In section 3, Provide for the suspension and cancellation of licenses granted to agents in case of "his" misconduct....."His" must be omitted.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council : The title of the Bill is "The Village Courts Act (Amendment) Bill".

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* I request that S. O. 32 may be suspended and the Bill may be taken for consideration at once.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* I second it.

Mr. President: S. O. 32 suspended.

I have just received a notice of amendment to clause 2 of the Bill from the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri. Does he wish to move the amendment?

***Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, my amendment reads like this. Add at the end of Section 2 of the Cochin Village Courts Act (Amendment Bill) changing the full stop into a coma "and shall be entitled to a travelling allowane of Rs. 2 per diem of their attendance". The President, the Senior Judge and the other Judges of the Village Court shall be nominated by Government in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by Government in this behalf and shall hold office for a period of three years. My amendment is to the effect that the words noted in the amendment namely "and they shall be entitled to a T. A. of Rs. 2 per diem of their attendance". Remove the full stop after the last word "years" and put a full stop after the last word "attendance." The object, Sir, of this amendment is clear. These are the Village Court Judges and are gentlemen at times living at a distance but do honorary work in the administration of Civil Justice in rural areas. It may not be the case always, Sir, of all members being of a pedestrian nature. Various circumstances may be reponsible for their being forced to use some

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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